The correct type locality of *Cisticola chiniana humilis* Madarász, 1904, with comments concerning the true identity of the collector

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Madarász (1904) described *Cisticola humilis* from two females collected in 'Gebirge Lettema (EA)' on 28 March and 11 April 1904 by 'Koloman Katona'. Lynes (1930) in discussing *C. chiniana humilis* gave the type locality as Settima Mts., Kenya Colony, and in his subsequent list of localities and dates referred to the type of *humilis* as being from the Settima Mts. in Naivasha District. Settima Mts. was retained as the type locality for *humilis* by Friedmann (1937), Jackson & Sclater (1938) and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1955), all clearly following Lynes (1930) as their authority.

Unfortunately, Lynes had clearly confused 'Gebirge Lettema (EA)' with Settima, a high part of the Aberdare Mts. in central Kenya east of Lake Naivasha. In fact 'Gebirge Lettema (EA)' refers to the Lettema (or Lelatema) Mts. south of Moshi in northern Tanzania. Madarász (1904) gave the name Koloman Katona as the collector of the type specimens, which was none other than Kalman Kittenberger, a Hungarian explorer, hunter, naturalist and collector of natural history specimens for the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Prŷs-Jones *et al.* 2008). He undertook two expeditions to German East Africa (later Tanganyika), in 1903–06, largely in the Kilimanjaro–Arusha–Moshi–Lake Jipe area, and from 1908–12, when he explored the area immediately east of Lake Victoria, now known as the Mara-Serengeti region of northern Tanzania. Other than traveling from Mombasa to Voi by train and then on foot to Kilimanjaro in January 1903, Kittenberger spent all his time in German East Africa, though he was in Loliondo District in January 1910 and his type of *Sarothrura affinis antonii* was collected in an area astride the modern Kenya–Tanzanian border. Kittenberger (1958–59), in one of his few papers in English, detailed his East African collecting expeditions, and commented on the name Katona. It appears that during his absence from Hungary the then Director of the National Museum in Budapest, arbitrarily applied instead of his real name, the name 'Katona'. In fact, Kittenberger himself never changed his name; it was only his brothers who 'Magyarized' their name to Katona.

In the same document Kittenberger further confirmed the locality and dates of collection of *C. c. humilis* specimens as the Lettema Mts. on 28 March, 11 April and 28 May 1904. His sketch map clearly shows the position of the type locality (written Letatama Mts.) due south of Moshi. Modern maps of East Africa show this range as the Lelatema Mts., part of which being more widely known as the Merelani Hills, source of the gemstone Tanzanite. In common with the great majority of the specimens Kittenberger collected, all his *C. c. humilis* were deposited in the Hungarian National Museum, where they unfortunately perished in the fire that destroyed the bird collection in 1956 (Prŷs-Jones *et al.* 2008).

The correct type locality of *C. c. humilis* therefore should be the Lelatema Mountains south of Moshi, northern Tanzania, at *c.*03°45′S, 37°20′E, collected by Kalman Kittenberger. This further extends the distribution of *C. c. humilis* from the western and central highlands of Kenya south to the Kilimanjaro–Moshi area of northern Tanzania, where it meets and quite possibly intergrades with *C. c. ukamba*.

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Merops oreobates (Sharpe 1892): a monotypic species or not?

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Prior to Fry's (1969) major contribution on the evolution and systematics of bee-eaters, it had been generally accepted by most authors including Jackson & Sclater (1938), Chapin (1939), Peters (1945), Boetticher (1951) and White (1965) that Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates* (Sharpe 1892) is nothing more than a race of *M. lafresnayii* Guérin-Méneville, 1843. However, Grant & Mackworth-Praed (1937) had considered (mainly on morphological grounds) that *lafresnayii* more closely resembles Blue-breasted Bee-eater *M. variegatus* Vieillot, 1817, than *M.l. oreobates*, and had proposed that *lafresnayii* be considered a race of *variegatus*, thereby leaving *M. oreobates* a distinct monotypic species of the East African highlands. This position was subsequently followed by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1952) but clearly rejected by White (1965). More recently, Fry (1984), Fry *et al.* (1988), Fry (2001) and Dickinson (2003) have all followed Grant & Mackworth-Praed (1937) and Fry (1969) in considering *lafresnayii* a race of *variegatus*.

Throughout the greater part of its range in West, Central and East Africa, *M. variegatus* is a bird of damp lowland grassland and lakeside vegetation (Chapin 1939, Benson *et al.* 1971, Britton 1980, Zimmerman *et al.* 1996, Dowsett *et al.* 2008), but the subspecies *M. v. bangweoloensis* does reach 2,000 m in swampy areas of the Ufipa Plateau, south-west Tanzania (D. Moyer & R. J. Dowsett pers. comm.). This is in direct contrast with *M. oreobates*, which throughout its range is a montane species of open forest, forest edges and woodlands at 1,600–2,300 m (Zimmerman *et al.* 1996). In Ethiopia *lafresnayii* is largely confined to the Rift Valley and adjacent highlands, favouring a variety of forest habitats between 530 m and 1,830 m (Ash & Atkins 2009).

Morphologically, *lafresnayii* is intermediate between *variegatus* and *oreobates*, being closer to the former in coloration, but nearer the latter in size and habitat preference. Vocalisations of *lafresnayii* are reportedly identical to those of *oreobates* but totally unlike *variegatus* (B. Finch pers. comm.). In Chappuis (2000) some vocals of *variegatus* are either a rather hard *klup, klup*, or slightly softer and more prolonged (e.g., a pair displaying), in contrast to the vocals of *oreobates* which are much higher pitched. Van Someren (1922) had commented that specimens of *oreobates* from the Turkwell (Gorge) area of north-west Kenya are sometimes very like Ethiopian birds, having the blue forehead, supercilium and neck-